

UPDATE

NORMAN'S WATER QUALITY

The City of Norman, as well as many media outlets, has received excerpts from the recent report from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) concerning reported levels of hexavalent chromium in our water supply. Norman has not yet reviewed a complete copy of the report along with its supportive data. We are uncertain as to where or when the referenced water sample was collected in Norman.

However, you may rest assured that the City of Norman is committed to providing water that is safe to drink for all members of our community and protective of public health.

In Norman, total chromium is tested periodically in accordance with regulations of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Total chromium is regulated by the EPA as a primary drinking water contaminant with a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 100 ug/l (parts per billion or ppb). According to EPA, this level of protection was set in 1992 based on the best available science to prevent potential health problems. Similarly, the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for total chromium is also 100 ppb. According to the EPA, a lifetime exposure to levels equal to the MCLG are not believed to result in any known or expected risk to human health.

Norman has monitored total chromium for several years and complies with the existing EPA maximum contaminant level MCL of 100 ppb. Chromium testing is reported annually to our customers in our Consumer Confidence Report (CCR); the latest CCR indicates total chromium values for our ground water wells are between 11 and 86 ppb, all of which are below the MCL of 100 ppb. The Water Treatment Plant, that treats Lake Thunderbird water, has total chromium levels below detectable limits. The following link provides a copy of the CCR:

<http://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/WebFM/Norman/Utilities/Consumer%20Confidence%20Report%202010.pdf>

There are no current federal or State of Oklahoma regulations governing hexavalent chromium, which is also known as chromium VI or chromium-6. Chromium-6 is one of several oxidation states of the chromium atom. Another form, trivalent chromium, chromium-3 or chromium III, occurs naturally in many vegetables, fruits, meats, and grains. It is a nutritionally essential element for human health and is often added to vitamins as a dietary supplement. Chromium-3 is needed for normal glucose, protein and fat metabolism. Some scientific studies have shown that chromium-6 may be converted to chromium-3 by the human body.

Norman pays close attention to new research related to drinking water contaminants. As you may remember, Norman recently dealt with a similar issue

regarding a federally mandated reduction of the MCL for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb. As a result, Norman made major modifications to its ground water supply and Norman remains in compliance with the new arsenic rule.

The EPA is currently evaluating new health effects data on chromium-6. That evaluation is expected to be complete in late 2011, and we are prepared to respond in a way that protects public health and meets federal and State of Oklahoma standards. Norman will continue to work closely with the ODEQ and the EPA to assure our drinking water is safe for human consumption.

The following EPA link below provides typical questions and answers regarding chromium in drinking water.

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/chromium.cfm>

The ODEQ Public Water Supply Compliance Tracking Section may be contacted regarding Norman's historic drinking water compliance record. Their phone number is (405) 702-8100.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is renowned for their expertise regarding safe drinking water and they have offered to answer any additional questions citizens might have. We encourage you to contact their organization should you feel the need for a third-party perspective. Their Public Affairs contact number is (303) 734-3410

They have a website located at the following link:

<http://www.awwa.org/>

Again, we share your concerns and will update our website as we gather new information.

Sincerely,

City of Norman Utilities